

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10 CIAE-00
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L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 06554

FOR CHARLES FLOWERREE (ACDA)

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS: PARM US UR
SUBJECT: NATO DISARMAMENT EXPERTS MEETING: TALKING POINTS
ON US-USSR RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS NEGOTIATIONS AND NEW
MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS DISCUSSIONS

RW MESSAGE NO.17

1. THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS ON US-USSR RADIOLOGICAL
WEAPONS (RW) NEGOTIATIONS AND NEW MASS DESTRUCTION
WEAPONS (MDW) DISCUSSIONS ARE PROVIDED FOR POSSIBLE USE
BY THE US REPRESENTATIVES DURING THE NATO DISARMAMENT
EXPERTS MEETINGS TO BE HELD MAY 2-3, 1978, IN BRUSSELS.

2.(A) IN MARCH 1977 DURING SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT TO
MOSCOW THE US AND USSR AGREED TO ESTABLISH A NUMBER OF
BILATERAL WORKING GROUPS ON VARIOUS ARMS CONTROL ISSUES,
INCLUDING ONE ON RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS (RW) AND NEW MASS
DESTRUCTION WEAPONS (MDW).

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(B)THERE HAVE BEEN FOUR SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE RW
WORKING GROUP IN PARALLEL WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS ON CHEMICAL
WEAPONS. THE CURRENT ROUND OF THE RW NEGOTIATIONS IS
EXPECTED TO END AT THE SAME TIME THE CCD ENDS ITS SPRING
SESSION, WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE ON MAY 5.

(C) THE SOVIET SIDE HAS ADVOCATED AN ONMIBUS TREATY

PROHIBITING ALL NEW MDW. THE US SIDE HAS REJECTED SUCH AN APPROACH, BOTH IN PRIVATE AND PUBLICLY, ARGUING THAT WHEN A NEW MDW IS IDENTIFIED IT SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN SUCH A WAY WHICH TAKES ITS SPECIFIC CHARACTERISTICS INTO ACCOUNT.

(D) THE US IS PREPARED FOR THE CCD TO CONTINUE KEEPING NEW MDW UNDER REVIEW BY HOLDING PERIODIC INFORMAL MEETINGS WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF EXPERTS. HOWEVER, THE US IS NOT PREPARED TO AGREE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AD HOC EXPERTS GROUP, AS PROPOSED BY THE SOVIETS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING A LIST OF POTENTIAL NEW MDW WHICH WOULD BE INCLUDED UNDER THE SOVIET OMNIBUS TREATY.

(E) IN THE US VIEW, THE PRINCIPAL TASK OF THE BILATERAL WORKING GROUP IS TO DEVELOP A JOINT INITIATIVE ON RW WHICH MIGHT BE PRESENTED TO THE CCD. ALTHOUGH THE SOVIET SIDE PLACES GREATER EMPHASIS ON NEW MDW, THEY HAVE AGREED TO WORK ON A SEPARATE RW INITIATIVE WHILE AT THE SAME TIME CONTINUING TO DISCUSS NEW MDW.

(F) DURING PREVIOUS RW ROUND (FALL 1977) THE SOVIET SIDE PROPOSED THAT "NUCLEAR NEUTRON WEAPON" (REDUCED BLAST/ ENHANCED RADIATION WARHEAD) BE INCLUDED IN DEFINITION OF RADIOLOGICAL WEAPON. US SIDE REJECTED THIS PROPOSAL, STRESSING THAT RB/ER WARHEAD IS A NUCLEAR WEAPON AND THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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RW NEGOTIATIONS MUST BE ON THE BASIS THAT ALL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES INCLUDING RB/ER ARE EXCLUDED.

(G) US AGREED TO START ROUND FOUR OF RW NEGOTIATIONS ON FEBRUARY 6 ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT RB/ER AND ALL OTHER NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES WERE OUTSIDE OF RW SCOPE.

(H) SUBSEQUENTLY, THE SOVIET SIDE PROPOSED A SEPARATE DRAFT CONVENTION PROHIBITING "NUCLEAR NEUTRON WEAPONS", WHICH THE US REJECTED. HOWEVER, THE SOVIETS WENT AHEAD AND TABLED THEIR DRAFT IN THE CCD.

(I) DURING THE CURRENT ROUND, THE US-USSR WORKING GROUP ON RW HAS HELD SIX MEETINGS, THE LAST TAKING PLACE ON FEBRUARY 28. SINCE THAT TIME, THE USG HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING TO REFORMULATE THE SCOPE AND DEFINITION ELEMENTS OF THE DRAFT INITIATIVE IN SUCH A WAY THAT COVERS ONLY WEAPONS WHICH DISPERSE RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL AND USE THE RADIATION RESULTING FROM THE RADIOACTIVE DECAY OF SUCH MATERIAL SPECIFICALLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF CAUSING DAMAGE, DESTRUCTION OR INJURY. THE SOVIET SIDE HAD RAISED QUESTIONS WHICH SUGGESTED THAT THERE MAY BE CERTAIN AMBIGUITIES IN THE

PREVIOUS FORMULATION.

(J) IT IS NOT YET CLEAR IF THERE WILL BE ADDITIONAL MEETINGS BEFORE THE END OF ROUND FOUR.

(K) WHILE LANGUAGE HAS NOT BEEN WORKED OUT, THE US AND USSR AGREE IN PRINCIPLE ON THE ISSUES OF SCOPE AND DEFINITION.

(L) THE ONLY OTHER ISSUES WHICH REMAIN TO BE SETTLED ARE THE FORM OF THE JOINT INITIATIVE AND VERIFICATION. WITH RESPECT TO FORM, THE US HAS PROPOSED THAT THE JOINT INITIATIVE BE PRESENTED AS KEY ELEMENTS DRAFTED IN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 06554

FOR CHARLES FLOWERREE (ACDA)

RW MESSAGE NO. 17

NEAR-TREATY LANGUAGE. THE SOVIETS HAVE URGED THAT IT BE A DRAFT TREATY TEXT. WITH RESPECT TO VERIFICATION, BOTH SIDES AGREE THAT THERE SHOULD BE A CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE TO HELP RESOLVE QUESTIONS THAT MAY ARISE. HOWEVER, THE US SIDE HAS PROPOSED THAT THE TREATY SHOULD ALSO PROVIDE FOR A LIMITED FORM OF CHALLENGE INSPECTION WHILE THE SOVIET SIDE HAS SAID THIS IS NOT NECESSARY.

(M) ONCE THE JOINT INITIATIVE ON RW HAS BEEN COMPLETED, THE US WOULD ANTICIPATE THOROUGH CONSULTATIONS WITH

ALLIES BEFORE THE INITIATIVE IS PRESENTED TO THE CCD.
THE EARLIEST THAT SUCH AN INITIATIVE MIGHT BE PRESENTED
WOULD BE DURING THE SUMMER SESSION (WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO
START ON JULY 11). VANDEN HEUVEL

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